

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**HARUNA et al**Atty. Ref.: **1858-30**Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/JP00/03912**International Filing Date: **June 15, 2000**Filed: **Herewith**

Examiner:

For: **NUCLEATING AGENT**

\* \* \* \* \*

**December 7, 2001**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, after the title insert the following:

-- This application is the US national phase of international application

PCT/JP00/03912 filed June 15, 2000 which designated the U.S. --.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) The nucleating agent according to claim 1, wherein the metal represented by A is an alkali metal.

4. (Amended) The nucleating agent according to claim 1 wherein the compound represented by formula (I) is a compound represented by formula (II):